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March 18, 2003 LB 608

North Platte. And frankly, North Platte pursued it harder, they made a better case and, due to the benefits provided in LB 775, were able to bring that Wal-Mart Distribution Center to North Platte. Now, what's the effect of that?

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: The effect is that there have been over 3,000 applications for jobs for that business. And they cover primarily a 75-mile radius around North Platte--people wanting to come there because of the good-paying jobs that are going to be available in this particular program. They are now in a situation where actually people from other states were wanting these jobs. Now, let's look at another, perhaps, benefit to this, is that this kind of a program helps the more rural parts around North Platte, because the people will be able to work in this Wal-Mart Distribution Center, which opens next month, and yet remain in their own community. It's very hard to try and start a new business in a very small town, but this gives the people in those smaller communities the opportunity to come and work in North Platte and to continue to live in their hometown and . . .

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I stand up in major support of LB 775. Many of my constituents voice major opposition to LB 775. Yesterday Senator Landis talked about, when you go door to door, how those sort of things come up regularly, and I admit they do. But my personal opinion is that this bill has been one of the best economic tools in Nebraska, and that's what's caused our growth in the last 10 to 15 years, so I think it's very, very good. I think LB 775 gets a lot of press, and a lot of negative press. So I believe a lot of my constituents don't truly understand how it works. Now, I would tell you, though, that I am in agreement that we do need